

**(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau**



(43) International Publication Date
28 October 2004 (28.10.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/091754 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B01D 53/84,**
53/14

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2004/050506

(22) International Filing Date: 13 April 2004 (13.04.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
03252485.2 17 April 2003 (17.04.2003) EP

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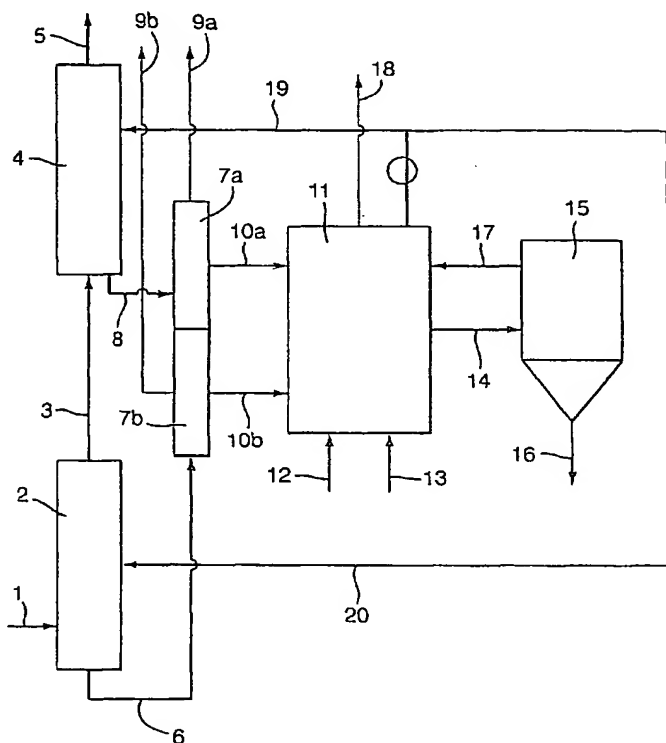
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(81) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: A PROCESS FOR THE REMOVAL OF H₂S AND MERCAPTANS FROM A GAS STREAM



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a process for the removal of, H_2S and mercaptans from a gas stream comprising these compounds, which process comprises the steps of: (a) removing H_2S from the gas stream by contacting the gas stream in a H_2S -removal zone with a first aqueous alkaline washing liquid to obtain a H_2S -depleted gas stream and a sulphide-comprising aqueous stream; (b) removing mercaptans from the H_2S -depleted gas stream obtained in step (a) by contacting the H_2S -depleted gas stream in a mercaptan-removal zone with a second aqueous alkaline washing liquid to obtain a mercaptan-depleted gas stream and an thiolate-comprising aqueous stream; (c) contacting the combined aqueous streams comprising sulphide and thiolates obtained in step (a) and step (b) with sulphide-oxidizing bacteria in the presence of oxygen in an oxidation reactor to obtain a sulphur slurry and a regenerated aqueous alkaline washing liquid; (d) separating at least part of the sulphur slurry obtained in step (c) from the regenerated aqueous alkaline washing liquid; and (e) recycling the regenerated aqueous alkaline washing liquid to the H_2S -removal zone in step (a) and to the mercaptan-removal zone in step (b). The invention further relates to a gas-treating unit for the removal of H_2S and mercaptans and from a gas stream comprising these compounds in a process according to the invention.



Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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